

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Vera Tap to Trentwood-Valley Way Transmission Line Rebuild (update to previous Categorical Exclusion issued on January 16, 2015)

Project No.: L0377

Project Manager: Jim Semrau - TEP-TPP-1

Location: Spokane County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.13 Upgrading and rebuilding existing powerlines

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to rebuild the Vera Tap to Trentwood-Valley Way transmission line located in Spokane Valley, WA. In addition to the work described in the CX prepared on January 16, 2015, BPA proposes to install a tap structure on the transmission line and replace two wood pole structures with steel pole structures. The rebuild and tap would connect to Vera Water and Power's (Vera) new 16th Avenue Substation. The substation would provide reliable, continuous power in the local area and support approximately 3,000 of Vera's customers.

About 2.5 miles of the Vera Tap-Trentwood-Valley Way 115-kilovolt transmission line would be rebuilt, which would include replacing existing wood-pole structures and electrical conductor. Most structures would be replaced with wood poles similar to the existing structures, but the poles may be up to 10 feet taller. Two structures (3/14 and 3/15) located adjacent to Vera's new substation would be replaced with steel mono-pole structures. The work for the rebuild and new tap would be confined to BPA right-of-way (ROW). BPA's work within the substation would include adding a revenue meter with a cellular modem on an equipment rack inside the new control house.

The rebuild is being coordinated with Vera Water and Power, who will be funding the rebuild and has underbuild on a portion of the transmission line. In addition, BPA will coordinate with several local utilities and companies who have utilities on or near the transmission line.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Reviewed by:

/s/ David K. Kennedy for

Gene Lynard
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 15, 2016

Attachment: Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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Project Site Description

All work associated with the interconnection and transmission line rebuild would take place within BPA ROW in its Vera Tap-Trentwood-Valley Way transmission corridor, with the exception of material storage. The existing transmission line corridor is located along S. Sullivan Blvd., a heavily travelled four-lane road in a developed commercial and residential area. Most of the transmission line is located in the City of Spokane Valley. The 45 wood pole structures to be replaced are located in asphalt parking lots, sidewalks, and residential backyards. The proposed tap required for the interconnection of the new 16th Avenue Substation would be located in the BPA ROW next to structures 3/14 and 3/15. The structures are located in the sidewalk between S. Sullivan Road and Vera Water and Power's land, which is currently planted with grass.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA determined that the proposed project would have no adverse effect on historic properties. Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred with the no adverse effect determination for the original CX on October 6, 2014. The Spokane Tribe, Coeur D'Alene Tribe and Kalispel Tribe were notified but did not respond.</p> <p>Subsequently, BPA determined that the updated proposed project would have no adverse effect on historic properties; DAHP concurred on November 16, 2015 and the Spokane Tribe concurred on November 17, 2015. The Coeur D'Alene Tribe and Kalispel Tribe were contacted but did not respond.</p> <p><u>Mitigation:</u> In the event any archaeological material is encountered during project activities, the following actions should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stop work in the vicinity and immediately notify the BPA environmental lead, a BPA archaeologist, appropriate BPA project staff, interested Tribes, Oregon SHPO, and the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.• Implement reasonable measures to protect the discovery site, including any appropriate stabilization or covering.• Take reasonable steps to ensure the confidentiality of the discovery site, including restricting access.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: Minimal soil disturbance will occur during pole replacements. The maximum area to be disturbed is anticipated to be 15-feet around each pole. Pole replacements are anticipated to be in the same location as the existing structures; however, if necessary may be moved up to 10 feet to the North or South.

Mitigation:

- Contractor to develop and utilize an Erosion Control Plan to mitigate any water or wind erosion of

- excavated soils during rebuild. Stabilize and restore any disturbed areas.
- Contractor to follow the guidance found in the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington.
- Contractor to follow the additional guidance specified in the Mitigation Implementation Table (MIT) document, dated 11/25/15.

3. **Plants** (including federal/state special-status species)

Explanation: No federal or special status plants present.

Mitigation:

- Contractor to stabilize and restore any disturbed areas.

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)

Explanation: No impacts to wildlife.

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish** (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)

Explanation: No water bodies, floodplains, or fish are present.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: No wetlands are present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

Explanation: No change to land use. There are no specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: New poles will be a maximum of 10 feet taller than existing poles but otherwise will look the same with the exception of the two wood poles that will be replaced with steel poles (3/14 and 3/15).

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Small amount of dust and vehicle emissions anticipated during construction.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise anticipated. No changes to audible noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Electric and magnetic field levels were calculated and demonstrated that the proposed action will not significantly change existing levels.

Mitigation: Contractor to use a traffic control plan for work near roads in accordance with local regulations.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Landowner notification, involvement and coordination will be conducted by BPA's realty and public affairs departments. A public meeting will be held in February 2016 to inform landowners of the project and discuss any concerns.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping
Elizabeth Siping – ECT-4

Date: January 15, 2016